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TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST
By
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.
26 February 1958

I've succeeded in getting the meeting, a personal meeting, with some of the responsible heads of the Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe. It was last Saturday at the Free Europe headquarters in New York City, Number 2 Park Avenue, although I have an unhappy feeling that not too much was accomplished. The first time I went to Free Europe headquarters in quest of news was last October the 6th--it is now February 26th--at which time, as I reported to you, I tried to see General Willis B. Crittenberger, the Free Europe president, and found that he was out for the day officiating at some function on Governors Island. In his absence I met with one of his assistants, Mr. Samual S. Walker, Jr., who had with him Mr. Richard Condon, who was in charge of the Munich operation as a whole and I asked most of the questions I had planned to put to General Crittenberger.

They called me several days later and I went by to get the answer to those questions when an additional person, Mr. Richard Greenly, counsel for the organization, was also present. This was on a Friday. At least some of the answers I received of the questions from these gentlemen at that time proved to be entirely untrue, and all of them I should say were self-justifying, but it didn't make too much difference because I had plenty of other sources through which to check that misinformation, which I promptly did.

In the course of this time, or a few days later, I tried to reach General Crittenberger several more times and was referred by his secretary to a Mr. McAnurney whom the general had designated as his information representative. I and my staff members then began querying Mr. McAnurney who seemed anxious to be helpful but failed to come up with any answers. He explained to me that all he could do was to refer the questions in writing to General Crittenberger but that he got no replies from the general. On one occasion he did feel able to give us some over-all personnel figures --total numbers of employees--which had been given us some weeks previously but had been lost in the usual shuffle of my office. Other than that, over the entire intervening months I have never been able to get an answer to any of the many questions I have put to the Free Europe organization.

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During the Christmas holidays, of course, was the occasion on which I had set up the New York appointment with Mr. Gwilym Price, head of the Westinghouse Corporation and also head of the Crusade for Freedom, which is collecting the funds to support Free Europe. Mr. Price backed out of that one and despite my efforts in the meantime to get a hearing from him or some other responsible figures in one of the groups, I had no success whatsoever, no inkling of success in getting to Mr. or General Crittenberger or anybody else until I received a letter from Mr. Authur W. Page, chairman of the board of Free Europe, dated January 24th, but mailed airmail special delivery January 27th.

The letter reads as follows: "Dear Mr. Lewis: Since our correspondence, I see that you attacked Mr. Price for not seeing you. This does not seem to me logical for your criticisms are fundamentally based against the operations of the Free Europe Committee and Radio Free Europe. Mr. Price has no direct responsibility for these operations. I have. If you wish to talk with me about these organizations I will be available at my office, room 2602, number 20 Pine Street, New York, New York, Wednesday afternoon, January 29, or Thursday or later, if that is more convenient to you. You have asked also to see General Crittenberger. He will be with me when you come. Sincerely yours. Authur W. Page."

In reply, I sent the following telegram: "I appreciate your courteous letter of January 24th but inasmuch as it only reached my desk at noon today, Wednesday, it will be impossible to accept your kind invitation for today or tomorrow. I shall try, however, to arrange my schedule to be in New York some time next week and will let you know my availability as quickly as possible." Due to a considerable amount of traveling and other time-consuming activities that were committed long in advance of all this, it was not until last Wednesday, a week ago, that I was able to contact Mr. Page's office, tell him that I would be happy to see him on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or any time this week, and the message came back eventually that it would be set for Saturday at 10 a.m. in General Crittenberger's office but that Mr. Page was ill and could not be in attendance.

Thus on Saturday, I met with one of my own staff members in charge of the Radio Free Europe story, with General Crittenberger, and Mr. John Hughes representing the Free Europe

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board of directors, and a Mr. Earl Newsome, a member of the board of the Crusade for Freedom. The general did most of the talking. He informed me that he had heard all of the broadcasts that had been made and has read all of my columns on the subject. They were all three very courteous and pleasant, but generally speaking, their attitude was what I was afraid it would be, one of justification of their position on virtually all points, not one of self-examination. Mr. Newsome, on the basis of numerous selections of propaganda material from the Crusade for Freedom, did agree that their literature probably needs re-examination, which seems to be a masterpiece of understatement, and that he would inquire into the repeated propaganda statement that Russia spends more than $100,000,000 a year in efforts to jam Radio Free Europe programs. Otherwise I'm afraid this series and the facts that have been presented over this microphone and in my column have not made the slightest dent on them. Their answers were the same pat answers that their printed propaganda has been putting out for months.

On the Fletcher Bartholomew case, they took the attitude that it was all a fault of the army and that Free Europe had no part in the incarceration of Bartholomew whatsoever. The fact that Richard Condon, the Free Europe director in Munich, was one of the principal individuals who, according to the army, provided information on which Bartholomew was slapped into a mental ward after he had made a report that was critical of some of the Free Europe personnel, failed to impress them, as did the fact that Samual Walker, Jr., and his deputy, John Kirk, back in New York were communicating with Free Europe in Munich about shipping Bartholomew home and committing him to Kings County Hospital in advance of the time that he left there.

On leaving, General Crittenberger handed me a new so-called fact sheet which is being issued by Radio Free Europe, dated February 19, one week ago today, which has a somewhat different version of the Bartholomew case. This is what it said. "On July the 26, 1956, the American Consul General after a session with Mr. Bartholomew and after the request of the Free Europe Committee, recommended to the Free Europe authorities that Mr. Bartholomew be given a medical examination. This was done in the interest of Mr. Bartholomew himself, the United States Government, and Free Europe Committee." All of which tends to reinforce my long-standing conclusion which I have expressed on repeated occasions that these very fine gentlemen in their exalted positions of responsibility in Free Europe and the Crusade are not very well-informed on what is going on down the line.

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